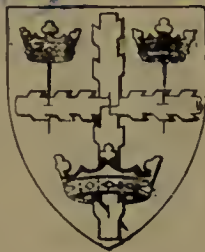


NEWLAND COLCHESTER  
BOROUGH OF



COLCHESTER.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

**W. F. CORFIELD,**

M.D., B.S., London; M.R.C.S., England; L.R.C.P., London  
D.P.H., Cambridge.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH;

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER;

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE ISOLATION  
HOSPITAL AND SANATORIUM;

AND TUBERCULOSIS OFFICER.

**1943.**

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Colchester:

WILES AND SON LTD., TRINITY STREET

# THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 1943.

## *Medical Officer of Health, etc. :*

W. F. CORFIELD, M.D., B.S. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Camb.).

## *Assistant Medical Officers of Health, etc. :*

R. W. CUSHING, M.A., M.B., B.Ch. (Oxon) (on Military Service, from 18/9/39)  
MRS. W. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

## *Dental Surgeon :*

J. F. GODFREY, L.D.S., R.C.S.

## *Sanitary Inspectors :*

†\*A. FISHER.      †\*O. R. WARNER.      †\*C. J. JACOBI.      †\*R. F. KNOWLES  
† Sanitary Inspector's Certificate.      \* Meat Inspector's Certificate

## *Health Nurses :*

\*†† Miss E. R. SMITH.  
\*†† Mrs. M. E. HUNT.      \*†† Miss M. G. PENNICK.  
\*†† Miss A. E. BICKERDIKE.      \*†† Miss L. FLETCHER.

## *Clerks :*

R. D. SARGEANT, A.C.C.S.      H. T. PERCIVAL.  
A. W. MILLBOURN.<sup>a</sup>      L. G. NICHOLLS.<sup>a</sup>      MRS. P. C. BROOM.      R. T. TAWELL  
MRS. I. NICHOLLS.      MRS. E. FISHER.      I. C. HAZELL.      MISS B. J. GILL.

*Laboratory Assistant :*  
R. D. SARGEANT.

*Disinfectors :*  
H. EDWARDS.<sup>a</sup>

*Rat Catcher :*  
E. J. V. FOXALL

<sup>a</sup> On Military Service.

## *Matrons :*

*Isolation Hospital and Sanatorium :*  
\*† Miss D. COPLIN.

*Maternity Home :*  
\*† Mrs. F. DENNIS.

## *War-time Nurseries :*

† Mrs. K. ANNESLEY

† Mrs. F. A. P. HARRIES.

\* Certified Midwife.      † State Registered Nurse.      ‡ Health Visitor's Certificate.

## PART-TIME SPECIALISTS :

*Surgeon, Isolation Hospital :*      *Orthopaedic Surgeon :*  
RONALD REID, F.R.C.S. (Eng.).      T. ALEXANDER OGILVIE, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.

## *X-Ray Specialist :*

J. ORD PENDER SMITH, M.B., Ch.B. (Edin.), D.M.R.E. (Camb.).

## *Medical Officer—Ante-Natal Clinic :*

GWYNEDD HUGH-JONES, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), M.M.S.A.

## *Masseuse :*

MISS M. BLYTH, C.S.M.M.G., M.E., L.E.T.

*Veterinary Surgeon :*  
C. T. MURPHY, M.R.C.V.S.

*Public Analyst :*  
A. H. MITCHELL MUTER, F.I.C.

BOROUGH OF



COLCHESTER.

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BOROUGH & PORT HEALTH COMMITTEE,  
1943-44.

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THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR,  
COUNCILLOR M. PYE, J.P.

*Chairman :*

ALDERMAN P. A. SANDERS, O.B.E., D.L., J.P., C.A.

*Deputy-Chairman :*

COUNCILLOR MRS. R. L. BENSUSAN-BUTT, M.D.

*Members :*

COUNCILLOR W. ALLEN.

COUNCILLOR J. CHASE.

COUNCILLOR A. CRAIG.

COUNCILLOR H. H. FISHER, J.P.

COUNCILLOR S. E. HUNWICKE.

COUNCILLOR MISS K. E. SANDERS, R.R.C., J.P.

*Maternity and Child Welfare Committee :*

The Health Committee with the addition of  
MRS. W. W. TOWNSEND, J.P., and  
MRS. K. L. PEARTREE.

HEALTH OFFICES,

TRINITY STREET,

8th June, 1944.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors  
of the Borough of Colchester.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my Annual Report upon the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the Borough for the year 1943.

This is again a wartime report, that is to say all references to population figures are excluded and the report is prepared along lines laid down in Circular 10/44 of the Ministry of Health.

I have pointed out in the Report that too much stress must not be laid upon Birth Rate and Death Rate figures as the number of the population upon which these figures are based is an estimate, no Census Figure being available after 1931.

However, speaking generally, one knows that the Birth Rate is well above the pre-war figure, though not so high as the figure calculated for 1942 and the Death Rate remains about the same, rather higher than the pre-war figure and also not so high as the Rate of 1942.

All the Clinics continue to be very popular and busy, and to save time in the Clinics a Sales Centre at the Health Offices was opened. This has proved a great success, not only by its help to the clinics but also in saving a good deal of financial booking and checking, and the mothers and other patients evidently like it.

The War must be blamed for the general increase of what may be termed "dirt diseases," Scabies, Impetigo, Vermin and Bug Infestation of Houses. All these conditions are dealt with wherever found and none of them has increased to any serious extent. In fact the number of cases of Scabies brought to the notice of the Department has certainly diminished.

My grateful thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Health and Maternity and Child Welfare Committees for their continued interest and support and to the staffs of the Health Department, Isolation Hospital, Maternity Home and War-time Nurseries for their loyal assistance throughout a somewhat difficult year.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. F. CORFIELD.

*Medical Officer of Health, etc.*

# Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1943.

*An "Abridged Report" as directed by various Circulars of the  
Ministry of Health.*

## NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

<b>Birth Rate</b> (664 Legitimate Births, 84 Illegitimate)	<b>16.6</b>
"    "    England and Wales	16.5
<b>Death Rate</b> per 1,000 of the population	<b>12.5</b>
"    "    England and Wales	12.1
Percentage of total deaths occurring in Public Institutions	52%
Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, Child-birth— From Sepsis, 1.      From other Causes, 1.	
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births— Legitimate, 37.6. Illegitimate, 47.6. Total	<b>38.7</b>
Deaths from Measles	1
"    "    Whooping Cough	1
"    "    Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death Rate	0.49
Other Tuberculous Diseases Death Rate	0.00
Cancer Death Rate	1.77

Although the Birth Rate remains high it does not reach the very high rate of 1942 (18.3) The Still-Birth Rate was only 0.42 per 1,000 of the population; this is even lower than in 1942 when this rate was 0.45. This rate continues well below the average of similar towns which in 1943 was 0.61.

There were 11 Deaths less than in 1942. The greatest decreases occurring from Violence (12), and from Bronchitis (12), Deaths from Pneumonia were 6 less and from Cancer 3 less. Increases occurred from Suicide (6), and from Gastric Ulcers (5).

It is gratifying to note that the suggestion in the Report for 1942 that the high Cancer Death Rate for that year was exceptional has for 1943 proved to be correct, as the rate fell from 1.86 to 1.77.

It should not be forgotten that these death rates that are based upon population figures are now decidedly problematical, as no Census has been taken since 1931 and so the population number upon which these figures are based may be too small.

Also it is a population from which very many of those in vigorous life have been withdrawn, leaving a greater proportion of children and old persons, and it is in the two extremes of life that death is most frequent.

The Tuberculosis Death Rate was 0.49 for Pulmonary Cases and nil for Other Forms of Tuberculosis, this being a slight rise in the number of deaths from tuberculosis of the lungs and a fall to nil from other tuberculosis diseases.

The Infantile Mortality Rate, which is calculated upon the actual number of births, remains low though not quite so low as in 1942.

The Population Figures and any figures from which the population could be calculated have been omitted at the request of the Ministry of Health.

### CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

These have continued the same as in 1942 but a second War-time Nursery has been opened in Sheepen Road. Further reference is made to this nursery later in this report.

In the Laboratory in the Health Offices 1,978 samples of Urine have been examined from the Antenatal Clinic, 334 throat swabs for Diphtheria infection from doctors or the Isolation Hospital, and 79 samples of sputum for tubercle bacilli ; a total of 2,391 specimens.

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION CLINIC 1943.

Age.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
9/12—5 years ...	46	31	26	24	33	49	14	15	46	118	38	37	477
5—10 years ...	70	60	19	2	4	3	1	2	10	37	5	3	216
10—16 years ...	24	134	21	1	32	2	—	1	2	10	—	2	229
Adults ...	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	3	1	1	—	9
Total ...	140	226	66	27	69	57	15	18	61	166	44	42	931

It was to be expected that there would be a big drop in the number of children immunised against diphtheria as this immunisation is only necessary as soon after a child reaches nine months old as possible and again when a child enters school. The fact that the second immunisation is necessary is well shown by some figures published in the Report of the Royal Eastern Counties Institution for 1942.

In 1925 immunisation against diphtheria was taken in hand in this institution among the inmates and also all susceptible

new entrants were similarly treated. In 1942 cases of diphtheria occurred in one of the nurseries. At once the patients were re-tested and 19 per cent. were found to be susceptible in a community that was believed to be protected. An analysis of the results gave the following figures:—

919	originally negative	were still negative.
168	„ „	had become positive.
409	„	positive and then immunised were now negative.
157	„ „ „ „	were again positive.

Thus the need for a second immunisation at school age of a definite number of children who have been immunised during the first years of life is apparent.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### WATER, DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND SCAVENGING.

Practically no change has taken place during 1943 in the Water Supply, Drainage, Sewerage and Scavenging provisions in the Borough. For details of Water Supply see end of Report.

Plans are under consideration for further improvements in the Water Supply but these are still in the early stages.

No new cesspools have been constructed and none have been done away with. Similarly no new wells have been built nor old ones abolished.

Salvage Collection and Scavenging have continued upon the same lines as before.

### Sanitary Inspection.

*General Summary of Work carried out by Sanitary Inspector's Department under Public Health Acts, Housing Acts, Bye-laws, etc.*

Defects found	....	....	1,061
Defects remedied	....	....	1,260
Factories and Workshops Inspected	....	....	6

### Housing.

Floors or walls or ceilings repaired....	....	188
Doors or windows provided or repaired	....	143
Ovens or firegrates repaired	....	54
Stairs repaired	....	18
Rooms cleansed	....	132
Roofs repaired (including rainpipes and gutters)	....	145
Chimneys repaired or renewed	....	15
Damp houses remedied	....	63
Yards paved or repaired....	....	10
Other housing repairs	....	63

*Drainage.*

Repairs and improvements	....	....	143
Water closets provided or repaired...	....	....	142

*Other Sanitary Work.*

Houses disinfected	....	....	62
Clothing and other articles disinfected	....	....	4,045
Dustbins provided	....	....	100
Re-visits in connection with Sanitary Notices			
P.H. Act 3,062, H. Act 40	....	....	3,102
Offensive accumulations removed	....	....	4
Pig-keeping nuisances abated	....	....	1
Other nuisances or matters attended to	....	....	4

The above Table shows that it is still possible for the Sanitary Inspectors to get a great deal of useful and necessary repairs carried out. It can be well understood that difficulties are experienced in obtaining both labour and materials. However, this Table shows that the Inspectors succeeded in getting 1,260 defects remedied. This is not such a high figure as usual but no small achievement in the fifth year of the war.

**Milk and Dairies Orders and Regulations.**

Inspections (169) of cowsheds and dairies were regularly carried out. Three contraventions of the orders or regulations were found and corrected.

**Premises and Occupations controlled by Bye-laws and Regulations, and Offensive Trades.**

	Number.	Inspections.
Fish Frier ... ..	24	2
Gut Scraper ... ..	1	5
Tallow Melter ... ..	1	6
Rag, Bone and Skin Dealer ... ..	8	2
Bone Boiler ... ..	1	6
Total ... ..	35	21
Horse Slaughterer ... ..	1	8

There are 24 fish-frying businesses in the Borough but at the present time 10 of these are closed. The number of businesses in the above table is one less than in the previous year. All of them have been carried on in a satisfactory manner and no complaints have been received.

**Common Lodging Houses.**

The two common lodging houses were well looked after and conducted in an orderly manner.

**Eradication of Bed Bugs.**

Houses Infested—Council 4, Others 57	....	61
Houses Disinfested—Council 4, Others 57	....	61
Rooms Infested and Disinfested	....	132

It is pleasing to find that only 4 Council Houses were found to be infested with bugs, the same number as in 1942, but the number of private houses increased from 38 to 57. The War may be blamed for this. Unfortunately all dirty conditions increase during wartime. The reasons are not far to seek and fairly obvious. Were it not for the constant watch and action of the Sanitary Inspectors bug infested houses would be much more prevalent.

**RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT.**

Inspections up to November 25th	....	255
Premises freed up to November 25th	....	25

*The Infestation Order, 1943.*

This Order came into operation towards the end of the year, and in order to carry it out, an operator (Mr. Foxall) was appointed. He together with the Sanitary Inspectors attended a course of instruction in the scientific methods of rat destruction arranged by the Ministry of Food, Infestation Control Department. Public notice requiring persons to notify the presence etc. of rats was given and other known places were given attention. During the five weeks to the end of the year 443 visits were made by Foxall and 19 premises had been freed. The cost of the work is chargeable to the Occupiers (or Owners) of the premises dealt with.

**HOUSING.***Statistics for the Year 1943.***I.—Inspection.**

Number of dwelling-houses inspected	....	668
Number of dwelling-houses found to be unfit for human habitation	....	—
Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation		657

II.—Number of defective houses rendered fit by Informal Action	....	....	....	624
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### III.—*Action under Statutory Powers.*

#### Under Sects. 9, 10 and 16, Housing Act, 1936—

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served for repairs	....	....	....	15
Number rendered fit—				
(a) By owners	....	....	....	13
(b) By Local Authority in default	....			—

#### Under Public Health Acts—

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served for repairs	....	....	....	89
Number complied with—				
(a) By owners	....	....	....	75
(b) By Local Authority in default	....			3

#### C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	....	....	....	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders....	....			5

#### D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936

....	....	....	....	—
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### IV.—*Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding.*

(a) (i.) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	....	....	....	*11
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein....				13
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein....				72
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	....	....	....	3
(c) (i.) Number of cases of overcrowding re- lieved during the year	....	....	....	3
(ii.) Number of persons concerned in such cases	....	.....	....	11
(d) Cases of houses again becoming over- crowded	....	....	....	—

\* No Housing Survey has been undertaken since 1935 and the above figures refer only to that year. Overcrowding now is certainly much greater, due to present war conditions, but no exact figures can be given.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Premises				Number	Inspections
Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	see note	below
Bakehouses	...	...	31	32	27
Underground	...	...	1		
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	46	122
Cowsheds	...	...	...	31	47

The use of private slaughterhouses is still discontinued.

### MEAT INSPECTION.

Slaughtering for Colchester and the adjoining Districts is still carried on at the Ministry of Food Abattoir in the Borough. The Inspection of the whole of the meat at this Abattoir is carried out by the Borough Sanitary Inspectors.

#### *Carcases Inspected and Condemned.*

	Beasts excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total
Number Inspected	3,650	469	3,933	7,754	1,019	16,825
Whole carcasses condemned T.B.	17	42	—	—	4	63
Other Conditions	3	13	2	8	8	34

The following quantities of parts of carcasses, or of organs were found to be unfit for human food by reason of T.B. or other conditions.

	Beasts including Cows.	Calves.	Sheep	Pigs	Total.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Parts of Carcasses	4,152	—	38	958	5,148
Organs	16,739	10	30	664	17,443

In addition 199 lbs. of imported Beef and 115 lbs. of imported Pork were condemned.

The total weight of Meat found to be unfit for human consumption was—

27 tons 18 cwts. 3 qtrs. 4 lbs.

**OTHER FOODS INSPECTION.**

The following table gives the quantities of "other foods" which were inspected and found to be unfit for human food.

<i>Type of Food.</i>				<i>Weight in lbs.</i>
Butter	....	....	....	52
Bacon	....	....	....	238
Cheese	....	....	....	227
Cooked meats, etc.	....	....	....	589
Flour	....	....	....	130
Fish	....	....	....	4,473
Vegetables....	....	....	....	119
Cereals	....	....	....	2,214
Sausage Rusk	....	....	....	238
Corned Beef	....	....	....	3,198
Corned Mutton	....	....	....	209
Meat Roll	....	....	....	548
Other Foods	....	....	....	185
Sugar	....	....	....	119
Sweets	....	....	....	69
Fish Cakes....	....	....	....	180
Tongue	....	....	....	16
Cake	....	....	....	77
Jam	....	....	....	216
Prunes	....	....	....	37
				<hr/>
				12,952
				<hr/>

The total weight of meat and other foods unfit for human food (excluding tinned foods, etc.) was:—

33 tons 12 cwts. 3 qrs. 8 lbs.

Tinned Milk	....	....	792 tins
Other Tinned Foods	....	....	847 tins
Eggs	....	....	474

In accordance with Ministry of Food Instructions the "other foods" condemned were reported either to the Food Executive Officer or to the Salvage Officer of the Ministry of Food who authorised their disposal either for animal feeding or by destruction.

*Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 to 1943.*

*Licences issued for sale of Graded Milk.*

Pasteurised	....	....	....	14
Tuberculin Tested	....	....	....	3
Tuberculin Tested (Bottling)	....	....	....	1
Accredited (Bottling)	....	....	....	1
Pasteurised, Producer	....	....	....	3
Supplementary	....	....	....	1

**Food and Drugs Act, 1938.**

Samples.	Number of Samples.	Adulterated.	Nature of Adulteration.
Custard Powder	2	6	
New Milk	44		
Pasteurised Milk	7		Fat deficient = 6%
Sponge Mixture	1		" " = 10%
Egg Substitute	1		" " = 11%
Fish Paste	4		" " = 3%
Lemon Essence	2		" " = 7%
Tinned Soup	1		" " = 8%
Pudding Mixture	3		
Aspirin Tablets	2		
Essence of Cinnamon	1		
Sausage Meat	1		
Bun Flour	3		
Baking Powder	2	1	50% deficient of C.O <sub>2</sub> .
Cake Flour	1		
Cornflour	1		
Plain Flour	1		
Cough Mixture	1		
Cocoa	1		
Coffee	1		
Sauce	2		
Mustard	3	2	Absence of Volatile Oil
Whisky	2		
Liquorice Powder	2		
Malt Vinegar	1		
Mixed Spice...	2		
Mixed Pickles	2		
Ground Ginger	1		
Margarine	4		
Cheese	4		
Lard	4		
Butter	4		
Sugar	4		
Tea	3		
Mustard Cream	1		
Coffec Essence	2	1	Absence of Coffeo. (Vendor warned.)
Black Pepper	1		
White Pepper	1		
Stout	1		
	124	10	

All the adulterated Milk samples were "original" samples, and in three cases, the Vendors were warned.

The adulterated Baking Powder was an informal sample.

One of the adulterated Mustard samples was informal. A formal sample was obtained which was also found to be not genuine. Legal proceedings were taken in this case and the suppliers were fined £10.

## **MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.**

The total number of visits paid to Infants by the Health Visitors was 8,421. Special attention is paid to premature and sickly children. In some cases a number of visits are necessary to one child and occasionally in cases of sickness the District Nurses are called in to assist under the arrangement the Borough Council has with the District Nursing Association.

A number of articles such as Dried Milks, Ovaltine, Babies' Bottles, Emulsion, etc., have for many years been supplied free or at a cheap rate in the Infant Clinics. With the increasing attendance at these clinics it has been found that overcrowding was liable to occur and the time of the nurses and voluntary helpers was occupied which might have been more profitably given up to attention to the children or to the doctor. In order to avoid this, arrangements were put in hand for all foods, etc., to be supplied from a Sales Centre in the Health Offices. Every child for whom supplies are required must be seen at least once a month at one of the Infant Welfare Clinics.

This scheme has been in force during the current year, 1944, and is working most successfully.

Cod Liver Oil and Fruit Juices continue to be supplied from the Food Office.

**The Antenatal Clinic** was held upon two sessions each week. It was open for 100 sessions and 345 women attended from the Borough and 109 from neighbouring County Districts, making altogether 2,004 attendances.

In addition, 69 Colchester women and 20 women from County Districts made 98 postnatal visits. The average attendance of all cases per session was 21.

An Antenatal Clinic was also held during the year at St. Mary's Hospital for the benefit of women who book accommodation for their confinements in this hospital. Altogether 118 women attended this clinic, 96 Colchester residents and 22 from neighbouring areas.

Unfortunately this Clinic was given up early in 1944 and it became necessary to revert to 3 Borough Clinics per week.

**The Infant Welfare Clinics** continue to be very popular. The number of attendances at all these Clinics, and there are now six, increased to 3,500. The second clinic which was started early in the year in Wimpole Road was transferred on 18th November, 1943, to Old Heath. This has proved a boon to women living in Old Heath.

**The Women's Welfare Clinic** is held once a month in the Health Offices. Under an arrangement made by the County Council a lady doctor is in attendance. During the year she advised 18 women from Colchester and 42 from County Districts in the neighbourhood. Altogether 73 attendances were made.

**The Orthopædic Clinic** is attended by both school children and pre-school children. The Orthopædic Surgeon examined 42 pre-school children and these made 59 attendances, 34 of them were referred to the Massage Clinic for treatment and these made 62 attendances at this clinic. One child was referred to the County Hospital for Sunlight Treatment.

**The Dental Clinic** was open upon 36 sessions for the treatment of women or children referred from the antenatal or infant welfare clinics: 31 mothers and 8 pre-school children received treatment.

**Sick Children.** In suitable cases requests are sent from the Health Office to the District Nursing Association asking them to care for sick children. Only 5 such requests were sent in 1943. Three were severe cases of Impetigo. One was a case of Marasmus and the fifth was for pre-refraction treatment of the eyes.

The number of these visits under an arrangement with the Borough Council has considerably diminished of recent years owing to the increasing popularity of the Nursing Scheme for Families.

## WAR-TIME NURSERIES.

The Brook Street Nursery was opened in September, 1942, and a second Nursery was at the end of that year in course of preparation. Unfortunately delays were many and long but finally plans were approved and a new temporary building was erected upon some open ground in Sheepen Road. It was opened on 20th December, 1943.

Mrs. Ammesley, who was the Deputy Matron at Brook Street Nursery was appointed the Matron with Miss Lane, who had also been at Brook Street Nursery, as Deputy Matron. Miss Bacon, who had had excellent experience in Nurseries in Chelmsford, was appointed Warden (i.e., education assistant), also two assistant Nurses and two Probationers were appointed.

The planning of this Nursery is excellent, the only apparent faults being the very small rooms allotted to the Matron and Isolation Room and the very poor storage or cupboard accommodation. An improved plan that met both these difficulties was submitted to the Ministry of Health but they preferred their original plan.

At Brook Street Nursery the rooms that were occupied by the caretakers have now been included in the Nursery and no one lives upon the premises. In this way it has been possible to increase the accommodation to provide for 50 children.

This Nursery has been a great success: at one time there were over 60 children's names upon the books. The opening of Sheepen Road Nursery will relieve this to some extent.

In May, 1944, both Nurseries have now over 50 children upon their books. The arrangements at both Nurseries are those set out in the Report for 1942.

As both nurseries have no resident caretakers it has been necessary to employ a man for each nursery to light the fires early and clear the grates or stoves as may be required.

## MIDWIVES.

There are now 33 midwives practising in the Borough. Only 11 of these are in private practice, the others being employed in the various Hospitals in the district.

There are no District Municipal Midwives but the Borough Council has an agreement with the District Nursing Association to undertake the Midwifery of the District upon their behalf and the Association is paid according to the number of patients attended by the Association midwives.

Midwives Act, 1936.	As Midwives		As Maternity Nurses	
	1942	1943	1942	1943
Births attended by the District Nursing Assoc. Midwives ....	74	86	30	31
Births attended by Private Mid- wives ....	237	162	32	21
Births attended in Institutions	398	424	369	416

The demand for the institutional accommodation of women during child-birth has not only persisted but has become almost embarrassing. In 1941 there were 539 Institutional cases, in 1943 there were 838. So by 1944, if the accommodation is sufficient, there is likely to be over 900 midwifery cases looked after in the Borough Institutions. Already the Borough Maternity Home is working to capacity and the increase of cases must fall upon St. Mary's Hospital.

It is important that this possibility should be kept in view, as one of the reasons for this demand for Institutional care is the impossibility for women to obtain assistance during confinement in their homes, and at the present time there appears to be no likelihood of the demand for Home Helps being met. It is almost true to say that there are no Home Helps in Colchester and the only assistance of this nature available is the help given by kind-hearted neighbours.

#### Distribution of the Institutional Confinements during 1943.

Borough Maternity Home	....	....	511
St. Mary's Hospital	....	....	181
Beverley Road Private Nursing Home	....	....	123
Essex County Hospital	....	....	23

**The Emergency Unit** was called upon for Midwifery Assistance upon 4 occasions in neighbouring County Districts and this assistance was promptly sent to the doctors requiring it. No calls for the Unit were received from the Borough.

#### Register of Foster Mothers and Boarded-Out Children.

##### *Part VII Public Health Act, 1936, Sections 206-220.*

		1942	1943
Children on Register 31st December	....	25	26
Names removed from Register	....	28	15
Additions during the year	....	22	14
Foster Mothers on Register	....	23	21

Again there is a fall in the number of Foster Mothers and unfortunately the demands for such homes for little children persist. A temporary Residential Home for little children in this area would be of the greatest assistance.

**The Maternity and Nursing Homes** remain the same as last year and all three are well and properly conducted.

**Puerperal Pyrexia** is now readily notified and the increase in the number of cases notified has no serious significance as the definition of this condition embraces many minor and slight derangements which were not included in the old term, Puerperal Fever.

St. Mary's Hospital notified 9 cases, the Essex County Hospital 3, and 1 case was notified from a private house. A number of cases, (10), were sent into the Borough Isolation Hospital from County Districts, several of these were severe cases, as no doubt some were in the other hospitals. However, all 23 patients made good recoveries.

### **BOROUGH MATERNITY HOME.**

<b>Work of the Home.</b>			<b>1942</b>	<b>1943</b>
Admitted: Borough Patients 273, from County Council Area 221, from Harwich 11, Private outside district cases 10....	....	....	496	515
Delivered in the Home ....	....	....	489	511
Admitted for Ante-natal Care only ....	....	....	7	4
Delivered by the Nursing Staff ....	....	....	236	243
"      "      Doctors....	....	....	253	268
Forms sent for Medical Aid under the Midwives Acts ....	....	....	69	68

Recently every year has shown a record number of patients in this Home and 1943 was no exception. The 500 mark was passed and at the end of the year there was every indication that the current year's total would be still higher. Accommodation was fully taxed and plans for increasing the number of beds were under consideration at the end of the year.

One Maternal Death occurred in the Home, an emergency case of failed forceps delivery. The patient suffered from a flat pelvis and craniotomy became necessary but peritonitis developed with fatal results.

There were altogether 26 emergency cases, 4 from the Borough and 22 from neighbouring areas. The number of still-births was 15 and 7 infant deaths occurred.

# PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the  
Year 1943.

(Civilian and Military Cases.)

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Total Cases in Age Groups												Cases admitted to Hospital
		Under 1 Year	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-34	35-44	45-64	65 and over	
Small Pox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	177	—	2	1	9	13	52	41	29	20	8	2	—	151
Diphtheria ...	25	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	10	9	1	—	—	24
Acute Polio- myelitis )	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	10	1	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	100	6	5	3	1	1	6	3	8	15	11	18	23	4
Typhoid Fever ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	6	4	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum )	6	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever )	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1
Dysentery ...	52	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	—	6	10	15	17	—
Measles ...	766	17	50	52	71	106	360	27	36	39	7	1	—	61
Whooping Cough	65	4	10	5	9	11	22	—	1	1	—	2	—	4

There is a close similarity between the number of infectious diseases notified in 1942 and 1943. In the latter year Scarlet Fever was rather more prevalent and there was an outbreak of Measles but this was not particularly extensive. It should be noted that only one death from Measles occurred out of 766 notified.

## ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Cases admitted to the Isolation Hospital, 1943.

AUTHORITY SENDING IN CASES	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Mumps	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	Measles	Puerperal Fever	Erysipelas	Miscellaneous	TOTAL
Colchester Borough ...	97	6	2	—	11	—	—	17	133
Essex County Hospital ...	7	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	11
Mental Institutions ...	31	8	—	—	—	—	—	13	41
Naval and Military ...	26	18	67	2	65	—	1	87	266
Wivenhoe U.D....	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Brightlingsea U.D. ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	5
Tendring R.D. ...	24	2	—	—	1	—	—	3	30
Lexden and Winstree R.D. ...	14	6	—	1	2	—	1	6	30
Melford R.D. ...	18	1	—	—	—	—	1	6	26
Essex County Council...	—	—	1	—	—	12	—	40	53
Clacton ...	17	2	—	—	—	—	—	13	22
Sudbury U.D. ...	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Frinton and Walton U.D.	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Harwich Borough ...	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	3	9
TOTAL CASES...	250	49	70	3	81	12	3	172	640
DEATHS { COLCHESTER ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
DEATHS { OTHER DISTRICTS...	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	9	12

TOTAL : 640 Cases, 14 Deaths.

The number of patients admitted to the hospital increased by nearly 200 cases. This was almost wholly due to increases in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever and Measles. The other figures were similar to those of 1942.

The Miscellaneous Cases consisted of 43 Rubella, 19 Chicken-pox, 31 Pulmonary Tuberculosis and a number of odd cases of Diphtheria Carriers, Whooping Cough, Pneumonia, Septic Abortion, Influenza, etc. In addition there were 46 patients sent in with doubtful diagnoses who were found to be suffering from such diverse diseases as Tonsillitis, Toxic Rash, Enteritis, Abortus Fever, Adenitis, etc.

Nine deaths occurred among the Miscellaneous Group and seven of these were due to Advanced Pulmonary Tuberculosis. The other two were due to Pneumonia (1) and Encephalitis following Rubella (1).

An unusually large number of the Staff were admitted to the Hospital for various reasons, 1 sister for Tonsillitis and

nurses for Searlet Fever (2); Diphtheria (1); Rubella (1); Cystitis (1); Influenza (2); and Mumps (1).

In December 1943 Epidemic Jaundice was made notifiable in the Borough, 13 cases were notified before the end of the year. For several months previously records had been kept of the occurrence of this disease and the practitioners of the district had helped considerably by notifying cases. These notifications and certain particulars of the patients were sent to research workers who are studying this disease in Cambridge.

Two Food Poisoning Cases were notified from the Essex County Hospital but enquiries elicited nothing of importance and no further cases were reported or discovered.

### **SCABIES AND INFESTATION BY HEAD-LICE.**

During the year doctors and nurses were upon two occasions shown a film that gave the life history, spread and treatment of Scabies (Itch). Posters of the Health and Cleanliness Council are displayed in the various clinics dealing with cleanliness, lice, etc. The Health Visitors give necessary instruction upon cleanliness and report dirty houses for action by the Sanitary Inspectors.

Little children below school age are constantly examined by the Health Visitors for head-lice or nits and such cases are dealt with by the Health Department. Only one case was reported in 1943. Lethane Oil is used for such cases. The figure for the lice infestation of children's heads in the Borough Schools is low, being only 3.8 per cent. for the year 1943. Special visits to the schools are paid by a nurse for the purpose of head cleanliness inspections.

The attention of the Health Department was upon two occasions drawn to the condition of girl workers' heads owing to lice, and a complaint was received from a Hairdresser that she refused to set some girls' hair owing to the verminous condition of their heads.

Leaflets were sent to the hairdresser upon the subject and also to industrial firms requesting that girls should be tactfully approached concerning head-cleanliness.

There can be little doubt that the present fashion of hair dressing in many cases encourages the infestation of the heads with vermin.

The Cleansing Station for persons suffering from Scabies continues at St. Mary's First Aid Post. The treatment was altered from Sulphur to Benzyl Benzoate during the year.

This was done as it has been shown that one treatment with the latter is sufficient, whereas three treatments were necessary with the Sulphur Lotion. In this way the time of both patients and nurses was considerably saved and for many of the patients this was of definite importance.

### Tuberculosis.

Age Periods		New Cases				Deaths			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2-4	...	1	...	3	1	...	...	...	...
5-9	...	1	...	5	2	...	...	...	...
10-14	...	...	1	2	2	...	...	...	...
15-19	...	1	3	1	...	...	...	...	...
20-24	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
25-34	...	10	9	...	...	4	2	...	...
35-44	...	13	7	...	1	5	1	...	...
45-54	...	5	4	...	...	3	2	...	...
55-64	...	5	2	...	2	2	...	...	...
65 and upwards...	...	2	3	1	1	...	2	...	...
Totals	...	40	31	12	9	14	7	...	...

The percentages of cases that have died of Tuberculosis during the past five years, without having been previously notified, were—

1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
43.0%	34.5%	38.1%	28.6%	23.8%

### Tuberculosis Register.

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
Pulmonary Cases ....	160	168	168	157	169
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	86	83	89	79	88

The number of cases upon the Register has increased but the big fall in 1942 was as unexpected as it was welcome. It is however satisfactory that under present circumstances there

is not a large increase above the figures of previous years to record. An increase must be expected during the next few years. It is one of the aftermaths of war.

*Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.*

*Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.*

„ „ „ 1936, „ 172.

#### **Treatment of Blind Persons.**

*Public Health Act, 1925, Section 66.*

„ „ „ 1936, „ 176.

No action was required under either of these Sections.

### **WATER.**

About 98% of the population of the Borough are supplied by the Corporation Water Supply Department with a constant supply of water.

The water is obtained from the boreholes, (Lexden, Balkerne and Cook's Mill), and from the Surface Springs at Lexden and the Sheepen Springs. The three boreholes penetrate into the chalk.

The Lexden Spring Water has plumbo-solvent properties but by blending the water this tendency is neutralized.

About a dozen old cottages still are supplied with water from standpipes.

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for the Borough of Colchester.*

HEALTH OFFICES,

TRINITY STREET.

